

crops. Farming has been her passion for the past thirteen and a half years. Mrs. Thomas specializes in the production of greens, peas, peppers and tomatoes. She enjoys increased crop production and quality with the use of high tunnels in her operation.

Mrs. Thomas is a child advocate and works with several youth organizations including Grenada County 4-H as Volunteer Leader, Hinds County 4-H Leader and Girls Making a Change (GMAC). These organizations are focusing on healthy families.

Mrs. Thomas is community driven and has been instrumental in feeding the homeless in her area from her garden production. The youth actively assist with this community service project, teaching them sustainability and how to help and care for others. Mrs. Thomas serves as NWIAA Mississippi Hills Region Chairwoman. Her chapter includes Grenada and Calhoun Counties.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Joe Ann Mister-Thomas, for her dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN
COLACCHIO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, John Colacchio. Mr. Colacchio is an 89-year-old veteran of the Second World War who recently participated in an Honor Flight. The Honor Flight for the 2nd Infantry Division from World War II was a one-day event in which veterans flew to Washington, DC and visited the memorials to their fallen comrades. A native of Long Island, New York, Mr. Colacchio worked in the rail industry before serving our country. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Colacchio voluntarily joined our armed forces. He bravely fought with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in historic battles including the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Colacchio served with distinction for two years and nine months overseas, earning a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After leaving the armed services, Mr. Colacchio returned to his job at ATO Operations Railroad and worked there for another 34 years. In 2008, after the passing of his beloved wife, Mr. Colacchio moved to be near his only child, in Celebration, Florida. His daughter, Barbara, is a Marine Corps veteran and served as Honor Guardian on his recent Honor Flight.

Mr. Colacchio sacrificed greatly to help our country in a time of need. He served with dedication and bravery and has remained active in the veteran community. It is my pleasure to recognize his accomplishments and contributions to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF FAY
BEYDOUN'S INDUCTION INTO THE
HERITAGE HALL OF FAME OF
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOUNDATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Fay Beydoun on her recent induction into the International Institute Foundation's Heritage Hall of Fame. Each year, this honor is given to just a few individuals in the State of Michigan whose work within our many ethnic communities has enriched the entire state and beyond.

As a first-generation American, Fay understands the challenges that newly arrived immigrants face as they seek to become part of our great nation and achieve the American Dream. During her many years as a leader in Michigan's Arab-American community, she has brought individuals from across the Greater Detroit region together to advance social, political and economic causes that have enhanced the vitality of Michigan. And while much of her work has been in Michigan, Fay has also taken a lead role in developing the Arab-American business community, both nationally and internationally.

In her current role, as Executive Director of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, Fay leads the largest Arab-American business organization in the United States and oversees the support programs and services it provides to its more than 1,500 members, which span the gamut from small businesses to large multinational organizations. Fay's approach to her work is to focus on empowering entrepreneurs in our many minority business communities with the information they need to recognize and realize their goals. As part of her commitment to empower others, Fay has also served as Chief Operating Officer for the American Middle East Economic Affairs Committee (AMEEAC) since 2008, where she focuses on increasing economic relations between the United States and the Middle East. During her tenure in the leadership of AMEEAC, Fay brought together a wide array of stakeholders to form the TEJERA Global Development Center, an incubator and accelerator with a mission to promote entrepreneurship and exporting businesses in ethnic and minority communities. For the remarkable impact she has made on her community, Fay has been honored by the Michigan Women's Foundation with its Top 25 Women Making a Difference Award and by Corp! Magazine's with its 2011 Diversity Leader Award.

In addition to her work promoting entrepreneurship within the Arab-American community, Fay has been a strong advocate for women in business. As a cofounder of the Arab American Women's Business Council, Fay brought together women leaders in business with the mission to ensure that minority women would have access to the network, tools and knowledge necessary to succeed in their commercial endeavors. Fay furthered her commitment to this mission when she brought together members of the American Arab Chamber to found its Women's Council to support women aspiring to be leaders in business.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Fay has volunteered her leadership and experience

with countless community organizations including: Global Detroit, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Culture Affairs, the ACLU of Michigan and Henry Ford Community College—all with the goal of supporting entrepreneurship in Michigan and building ties between the diverse communities of the Southeast Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment of leaders like Fay Beydoun is essential to ensuring the robustness of our communities. Her work has fostered greater cross-cultural dialogue and helped others to realize their part of the American Dream, which has greatly enriched the lives of many of my constituents. I congratulate Fay on this great affirmation of her work that she has received from the International Institute Foundation and I thank her for the many insights she has shared with me on local issues, as well as her unwavering dedication to building a strong and diverse Greater Detroit region.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF
MARGARET ANNE MCGOVERN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great and good woman, Margaret Anne (Maggie) McGovern, who died surrounded by her loving family on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2013. Maggie was born in New York on July 20, 1933, and moved to San Francisco with her family in 1945. She was a straight A student who was educated at St. Anne's Grammar School and St. Paul's High School.

Maggie married Ed McGovern, and in 1963, they co-founded Knight's Restaurant and Catering in San Francisco. For over forty years in business they served Presidents, a Pope, the famous (and infamous) from all over the world. It was a true partnership, with Ed as CEO and Master of Ceremonies, and Maggie, as the well-dressed, gracious hostess and strong CFO.

Together, Maggie and Ed became world travelers, visiting six continents, including several trips to Amsterdam, Ireland, all the world capitals, and to their beloved Kauai where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2006 with 30 of their closest family members.

Maggie lived a life of style and service, giving generously of her time and talents to others. She was a member of St. Paul's Alumni, the Loyola Guild, past President of Little Children's Aid Auxiliary, a board member of Catholic Charities for eight years, a member of the Archbishop's Ring of Charity, Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and in later years, volunteered weekly at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Francis in Sonoma. Her elegance was not only in her fabulous wardrobe . . . it emanated from the core of her spirit.

In 2005, Maggie and Ed retired to their beautiful home in Sonoma where they became active members of the community and formed new circles of loving friends.

Maggie was preceded in death by her loving spouse of 56 years, Ed, and was the devoted mother of eight children: Ed (Tina) McGovern; Margaret (Frank) van Beuningen; Maureen